GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2564
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Plastic Waste and Hazardous Chemicals
Senthilnathan Shri PR.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is aware of the menace of plastic wastes and hazardous chemicals in the country
(b) If so, the details of the quantity of plastic waste and hazardous chemicals accumulated annually in the country;
(c) The details of the remedial steps taken by the Government to curb the said menace; and
(d) The roles and responsibilities of both the Union Government and the respective State/UT Governments in this regard?

Answer

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a)&(b) The Government is aware of the effects of plastic wastes and hazardous chemicals in the country. Approximately, 5.6 million tonnes of plastic waste is generated in country every year. As regards hazardous chemicals, it is mentioned that a total number of 684 chemicals have been listed as hazardous chemicals in the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals (MSIHC) Rules, 1989,which have been formulated the under the Environment Protection Act 1986.

(c) For management of plastic waste, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the revised 'Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016' in supersession of the earlier 'Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011'. These revised Rules, applicable to the entire country, have increased the minimum permissible thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns; introduced the concept of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) and indicate about segregation at source and recycling by involving waste pickers, recyclers & waste processors, etc. The Government is encouraging the use of waste plastics in road construction.

Regarding management of hazardous chemicals, the Government has taken steps to ensure adequate safety norms for hazardous chemicals listed under the MSIHC Rules, 1989 and the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996.

(d) Under the PWM Rules, 2016, State Governments/UTs are primarily responsible for their enforcement. Further, it is prescribed to constitute a State Level Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Urban Development, in States/UTs for the purpose of effective monitoring of implementation of these Rules. In the case of hazardous chemicals, the roles and responsibilities of various agencies of the Central Government and State Governments are prescribed in the Schedule 5 of the MSIHC Rules, 1989.

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